

From: Jon Doe
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I consider my computer "my tool". I paid for it, and I should be able to use it in any way I like provided that I do not use it to break any laws. If I were to buy a hammer, nobody would tell me that I could only hit nails with it. No one would say, "You can't use YOUR hammer as a nutcracker." Unfortunately, my computer is useless without an Operating System. I have to run Windows because some of my programs are not available for other OSes(Thanks to the monopoly). Frankly, Windows is a flawed operation system, and I would rather not use it because it occasionally restricts my productivity. For this reason, I am strongly opposed to any practice(Both technical sabotage and monopoly like practices) that discourages the development of software that works with or in place of Windows.

In its current form, I believe the Proposed Final Judgement is full of loopholes that will continue to let Microsoft exercise a monopoly on the computer industry. The Windows OS must not be allowed to impair the abilities of other software or operating systems. Furthermore, Microsoft should be forced to take further steps to make it easier for developers to create products designed for Windows in order to insure a free market economy.

In addition, I strongly recommend an addition to the settlement which prohibits Microsoft from requiring any sort of internet access or logging onto any Microsoft network to gain full use of Windows. In other words, Windows should be a stand alone product that does not need to connect to the net to gain functionality. Some people do not have internet connections to make this possible and some would prefer not to get such a connection. I believe that this part should be a temporary stipulation to be reviewed in about five years. At which point a non-biased committee should decide whether to lift the sanction in order to accommodate new technology.